REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4-9, 11, 14-19, 21, 22, 25-29, 31 and are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 4-7, 11, 14-17, 21, 22, 25-27, 29 and 30 have been amended, claims 2, 3, 10, 12, 13, 20, 23, 24 and 30 have been canceled, and claims 31 and 32 have been added by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1-3, 6, 11-13, 16, 21, 23 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Shibata et al. in view of Kanazawa et al., and the other claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) using Shibata et al. as a primary reference and other references as secondary references.

Claims 1-3, 6, 11-13, 16, 21, 23 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Shibata et al. in view of Kanazawa et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended independent claim 1 includes a combination of steps and is directed to a method for processing image data in an interactive media player. The method includes receiving first and second image sources from at least one of an interactive recoding medium including data to be reproduced by the interactive media player and an external server providing enhanced additional data to be reproduced by the interactive media player with the reproduced data from the interactive recording medium, determining if said at least first and second image sources are to be output on a same display screen associated with the interactive media player, determining if bit depths of frames included in the first and second image sources are different from each other when said at least first and second image sources are to be output on the same display screen,

selectively converting a bit depth of the frames of one of the first and second image sources to be the same as a bit depth of the frames of the other of the first and second image sources when the bit depths of the frames of the first and second image sources are different from each other, and not converting the bit depth of the frames of said one the first and second image sources when the bit depths of the frames of the first and second image sources are not different from each other, and outputting the first and second image sources on the same display screen associated with the interactive media player. Independent claim 21 is similar to independent claim 1, but is directed to an interactive media player system, rather than a method claim. Further, independent claim 11 is also similar to claim 1, but is directed selectively converting the bit depth of the frames of the second image file to a predetermined fixed bit depth used for processing the frames of the first image file.

The features recited in independent claims 1 and 21 are supported at least by Figure 3a and the corresponding description in the specification. For example, Figure 3a illustrates a method for processing image data in an interactive media player, which includes receiving first and second image sources from at least one of an interactive recoding medium including data to be reproduced by the interactive media player and an external server providing enhanced additional data to be reproduced by the interactive media player with the reproduced data from the interactive recording medium (S10), determining if said at least first and second image sources are to be output on a same display screen associated with the interactive media player (S11), determining if bit depths of frames included in the first and second image sources are different from each other when said at least first and second image sources are to be output on the same display screen (S12), selectively converting a bit depth of the frames of one of the first and second image sources to be the same as a bit depth of the frames of the other of the first and

second image sources when the bit depths of the frames of the first and second image sources are different from each other, and not converting the bit depth of the frames of the one the first and second image sources when the bit depths of the frames of the first and second image sources are not different from each other (S12 and S13), and outputting the first and second image sources on the same display screen associated with the interactive media player (S15). Independent claim 11 is supported at least by Figure 3b and the corresponding description in the specification.

On the contrary, Shibata et al. is directed to a liquid crystal display device and is not directed to solving problems associated with an interactive player that reads data from an interactive recording medium and receives enhanced data from an external server. That is, Shibata et al. does not receive first and second image sources from at least one of an interactive recoding medium including data to be reproduced by the interactive media player and an external server providing enhanced additional data to be reproduced by the interactive media player with the reproduced data from the interactive recording medium as in the claimed invention.

Further, as discussed in the previous response, in Shibata et al., a previous image is stored in the frame memory 2 and converted to 6-bit data to save memory space (see paragraph [0041]). The previous image is not going to be displayed, but rather is only is re-converted to 8-bit image data in order to correct the liquid crystal applied voltage corresponding to the current image data from the relationship between the current image data and the previous image data. Thus, the previous image data is only used to correct a driving signal for the current image data, and is not going to be output on the same display screen as the current image data.

In addition, there is no selectively converting step performed in Shibata et al. That is, the previous image frame is always converted to 6-bits and then re-converted to 8-bits. Thus, Shibata et al. also does not teach or suggest the selectively converting features of the claimed

invention, which does not always convert the bit depths, but only converts the bits depths when the bit depths of the frames of the first and second image sources are different from each other. That is, the present invention solves a particular problem that is associated with an interactive media player that handles data from an external server as well as data from an interactive recording medium.

Further, the Office Action relies on Kanawaza et al. as teaching a plurality of image sources being displayed on a same screen. The Office Action also relies on Shibata et al. as teaching the feature of converting the bit depths. However, as discussed above, Shibata et al. always converts the bit depth of the previous image. Combining Shibata et al. with Kanawaza only results in a previous frame in Shibata et al. being converted to a lower bit value and then reconverted to a higher bit value to correct a driving signal for the current image data. There is no teaching in either reference about the problems addressed by the present invention nor the feature of selectively converting the bit depths as claimed by the present invention.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted independent claims 1, 11 and 21 and each of the claims depending therefrom are allowable.

Further, it is respectfully submitted the other 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections have also been overcome as the claims rejected therein are dependent claims, and the additional references also do not teach or suggest the features recited in the corresponding independent claims.

In addition, new claims 31 and 32 have been added to set forth the invention in a varying scope and Applicants respectively submit the new claims are supported by the originally-filed specification. It is respectfully submitted the new dependent claims further define over the applied art.

Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact David A. Bilodeau, Reg. No. 42,325, at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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